

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7146
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2005
IRREGULARITY IN SUPPLY OF LPG
Chauhan Shri Nihal Chand

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether some persons have been arrested on account of pilferage of LPG from sealed cylinders as reported in the Time of India dated April 9, 2005 ;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard ;
- (c) whether numerous complaints are also received regarding underweight LPG cylinders being provided by Indane Gas Agencies in Delhi particularly in Vasant Vihar Vasant Kunj ; and
- (d) if so, the effective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to take punitive action against those found guilty?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AYAR)

(a) & (b) : Yes, Sir. Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have reported that the Delhi Police have filed an FIR dated 8 April 2005 against their distributor, M/s. Shivanika Enterprises, and arrested 8 persons on charges of transferring LPG from filled cylinders. The Police is investigating the case.

(c) : IOCL have 193 LPG distributors in Delhi, including 5 in Vasant Vihar and 3 in the Vasant Kunj area. During the last three years, 24 IOCL LPG distributors in Delhi have been penalised in terms of the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), 2001, for supplying underweight cylinders to consumers. Out of these, one distributor belongs to the Vasant Kunj area.

(d) : The following measures have been taken to prevent the supply of under-weight LPG cylinders to consumers :-

(i) As per the provisions of the LPG (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 2000, promulgated under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, the supply of partially used LPG cylinders to consumers is punishable with imprisonment.

State Governments are empowered to take action against erring distributors under the provisions of this Order.

(ii) LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are under strict instructions to supply cylinders of the right quantity and quality to their customers. OMC officers carry out random checks at distributor's godowns, delivery points and en route to ensure that no pilferage takes place.

(iii) Under the MDG, in case any complaint of supply of partially used cylinders is established, the OMC distributor concerned is penalised, with a fine of Rs. 20,000 plus the price of the LPG pilfered / supplied short at commercial rate for a first offence; Rs. 50,000 plus the price of LPG pilfered / supplied short at commercial rate for a second offence; and termination of the distributorship for a third offence.